



## FLOOD SAFETY

2019

### Flooding and your property

Floods are one of the most common hazards in the United States, however not all floods are alike. Some floods develop slowly, while others such as flash floods, can develop in just a few minutes and without visible signs of rain. Additionally, floods can be local, impacting a neighborhood or community, or very large, affecting entire river basins and multiple states. Flash floods can occur within a few minutes or hours of excessive rainfall, a dam or levee failure, or a sudden release of water held by an ice jam.



### Prepare for Flooding Before it Happens

- Are you located in a flood plain?
- What is the fastest way to higher ground?
- What roads nearby are most likely to flood?

[weather.gov/flood](http://weather.gov/flood)

- Flood losses are not typically covered under renter and homeowner's insurance policies.
- FEMA manages the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which makes federally-backed flood insurance available in communities that agree to adopt and enforce floodplain management ordinances to reduce future flood damage.
- Flood insurance is available in most communities through insurance agents. There is a 30-day waiting period before goes into effect.
- Flood insurance is available whether the building is in or out of an identified flood prone area.

FEMA's Flood Insurance Study compiled data to create flood hazard maps that outline your community's different flood risk areas. Find out more about the study at [msc.fema.gov/portal/search](http://msc.fema.gov/portal/search). More about flood preparedness at [fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program](http://fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program).

### Know when to take action!

What is the difference between a **FLASH Flood Warning, Flood Warning, Flood Watch and a Flood Advisory** issued by the National Weather Service?

**Flash Flood Warning:** Take Action! A Flash Flood Warning is issued when a flash flood is imminent or occurring. If you are in a flood prone area move immediately to high ground. A flash flood is a sudden violent flood that can take from minutes to hours to develop. It is even possible to experience a flash flood in areas not immediately receiving rain.

**Flood Warning:** Take Action! A Flood Warning is issued when the hazardous weather event is imminent or already happening. A Flood Warning is issued when flooding is imminent or occurring.

**Flood Watch:** Be Prepared! A Flood Watch is issued when conditions are favorable for a specific hazardous weather event to occur. A Flood Watch is issued when conditions are favorable for flooding. It does not mean flooding will occur, but it is possible.

**Flood Advisory:** Be Aware! A Flood Advisory is issued when a specific weather event that is forecast to occur may become a nuisance. A Flood Advisory is issued when flooding is not expected to be bad enough to issue a warning. However, it may cause significant inconvenience, and if caution is not exercised, it could lead to situations that may threaten life and/or property.

More information at: [floodsafety.noaa.gov/watch\\_warning.shtml](http://floodsafety.noaa.gov/watch_warning.shtml)

## Evacuation? Build an emergency kit and other tasks

A basic emergency supply kit could include the following recommended items:

- Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation.
- Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Manual can opener for food
- Local maps
- Medications
- Cell phone with chargers, inverter or solar charger
- More information at: [ready.gov/build-a-kit](https://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit)



If you must prepare to evacuate, you should do the following:

- Secure your home. If you have time, bring in outdoor furniture. Move essential items to an upper floor.
- Turn off utilities at the main switches or valves if instructed to do so.
- Disconnect electrical appliances. Do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water.
- Do not walk through moving water. Six inches of moving water can make you fall. If you have to walk in water, walk where the water is not moving.
- Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.
- Do not drive into flooded areas. If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground if you can do so safely. You and the vehicle can be swept away quickly.
- More about floods and flood safety at [ready.gov/floods](https://www.ready.gov/floods).

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**Make a plan and practice!** Make a plan today! Your family may not be together if a disaster strikes, so it's important to know which [types of disasters](#) could affect your area. Know how you'll contact one another and reconnect if separated. Go here to make your plan: [ready.gov/make-a-plan](https://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan)

**Turn Around, Don't Drown** Watch this video from the National Weather Service to learn why you never drive into flood waters. Click [here](#) or paste and copy this link: <https://yhoo.it/2BypgHZ>. Don't underestimate the power of water.

**Preparing businesses** Planning and preparing can make a big difference in being safe and continuing operations after a disaster. The ability to maintain or quickly reestablish business operations or organization missions requires a focus on preparedness, advance planning, and relationships with external partners and community leaders. Click here for a guide: [bit.ly/2GmFGT7](https://bit.ly/2GmFGT7)

**Prepare pets for evacuation!** Prepare your pets for emergencies. Learn more at [ready.gov/pets](https://www.ready.gov/pets).

**Portage County EMA is committed to community preparedness!** Check out our resources on line: EMA WEBSITE: [co.portage.oh.us/homeland-security-emergency-management](https://co.portage.oh.us/homeland-security-emergency-management) PORTAGE PREPARES WEBPAGE: [co.portage.oh.us/portage-prepares](https://co.portage.oh.us/portage-prepares) More newsletters at: [co.portage.oh.us/portage-prepares](https://co.portage.oh.us/portage-prepares) Download the Portage County Emergency App for iPhone and Android at the iPhone App Store and Google+.



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